

ARTICLE VII. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 7.1 Severability.

If any article, section or part of a section of this Charter shall be held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such holding shall not affect the remainder of this Charter or the context in which such article, section or part of section so held invalid may appear, except to the extent that an entire article, section or part of section may be inseparably connected in meaning and effect with the section or part of section to which such holding shall directly apply.

Section 7.2 Conflicts of Interest; Ethical Standards.

All Councilmembers, officials and employees of the Town shall be subject to the standards of conduct for public officers and employees set by law. The Council may, by ordinance, adopt additional standards of conduct and Code of ethics, but in no case inconsistent with law.

Without in any way limiting the generality of the foregoing, no Councilmember shall have a financial interest, direct or indirect, or by reason of ownership of stock or other equity ownership in any corporation or entity, in any contract or in the sale to the Town or to a contractor supplying the Town of any land or rights or interests in any land, materials, supplies, or services unless, after full disclosure to the Council of the nature and extent of such interest, the same is authorized by the Council before the event or accepted and ratified by the Council after the event. No member of the Council who possesses such a financial interest shall vote on, or participate in the Council deliberations concerning, any such contract or sale. Any violation of this Section with the knowledge of the person or entity contracting with the Town shall render the contract voidable by the Council.

Section 7.3 Town Personnel System.

All new employment, appointments and promotions of Town employees shall be made pursuant to personnel procedures to be established by the Manager from time to time.

Section 7.4 Charter Revision.

- (a) At its first regular meeting in December 2005, and thereafter every tenth year commencing December 2015, the Council shall appoint and fund a Charter Revision Commission (the "Charter Commission").
- (b) The Charter Commission shall consist of seven persons including one from each of the four Residential Areas. One appointment shall be made by each Councilmember. In addition, the Mayor shall appoint one person to the Charter Commission who is a member of the Council serving a second consecutive term as Councilmember who shall serve as a nonvoting Charter Commission member. In the event a second term Councilmember is not serving, the Mayor may appoint a sitting Councilmember. The

Mayor shall not be eligible for appointment to the Charter Commission. The Charter Commission shall commence its proceedings within 45 calendar days after appointment by the Council.

- (c) If the Charter Commission determines that an amendment or revision is needed, it shall submit the same to the Council no later than October 1st of the year following its appointment. Alternative proposals may be submitted. The Council shall submit suggested amendments and revisions to the electors of the Town in accordance with the provisions of Section 6.1.

Section 7.5 Variation of Pronouns.

All pronouns and any variation thereof used in this Charter shall be deemed to refer to masculine, feminine, neutral, singular or plural as the identity of the person or persons shall require and are not intended to describe, interpret, define or limit the scope, extent, or intent of this Charter.

Section 7.6 No Discrimination.

The Town shall not adopt any ordinance or policy that discriminates against any person due to race, religion, color, national origin, physical or mental disability, creed, age, sexual preference or sex.

Section 7.7 Precedence over Related Laws.

In case of a conflict between the provisions of this Charter and the provisions of the Code to be adopted pursuant thereto, the Charter terms shall control. Moreover, nothing in this Charter shall be construed to alter, abolish, affect or amend the general laws of this State, now in force, or which hereinafter may be enacted relative to or affecting this Town, except where such laws are in direct conflict in which case the provisions of this Charter or Code adopted pursuant thereto shall supersede and be in full force and effect.